SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
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JUNE 86
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THE MAN OF STEEL in THREE STUPENDOUS STORIES!
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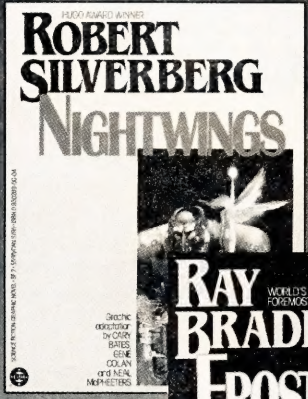
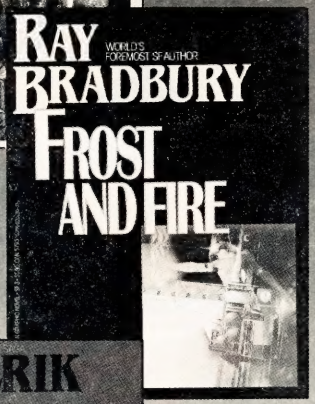
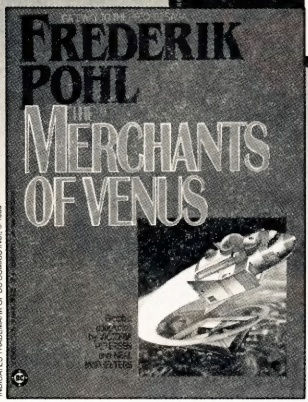
A NEW WAY TO READ SCIENCE FICTION.







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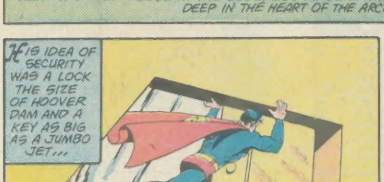
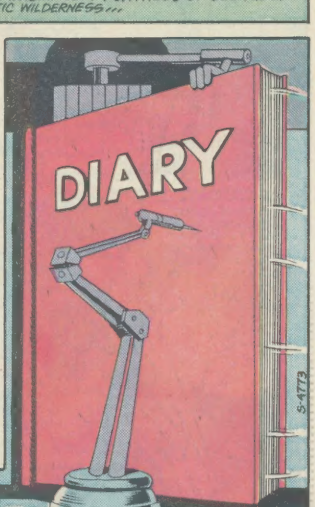
YEARS AGO, WHEN SUPERMAN NEEDED A PLACE TO BE ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS, HE DIDN'T RENT A LITTLE HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS. HE BUILT THE MAGNIFICENT FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE, DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE ARCTIC WILDERNESS...





SUPERMAN WAS YOUNG THEN AND HIS IDEAS WERE ALWAYS BIG. HE THOUGHT HE COULD END WAR, DISEASE, CRIME, POVERTY. HE THOUGHT HE COULD SAVE EVERYONE FROM EVERYTHING. THAT WAS BEFORE A CERTAIN TERRIBLE DAY, THE DAY THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING...

"The Day Superman Couldn't Save!"

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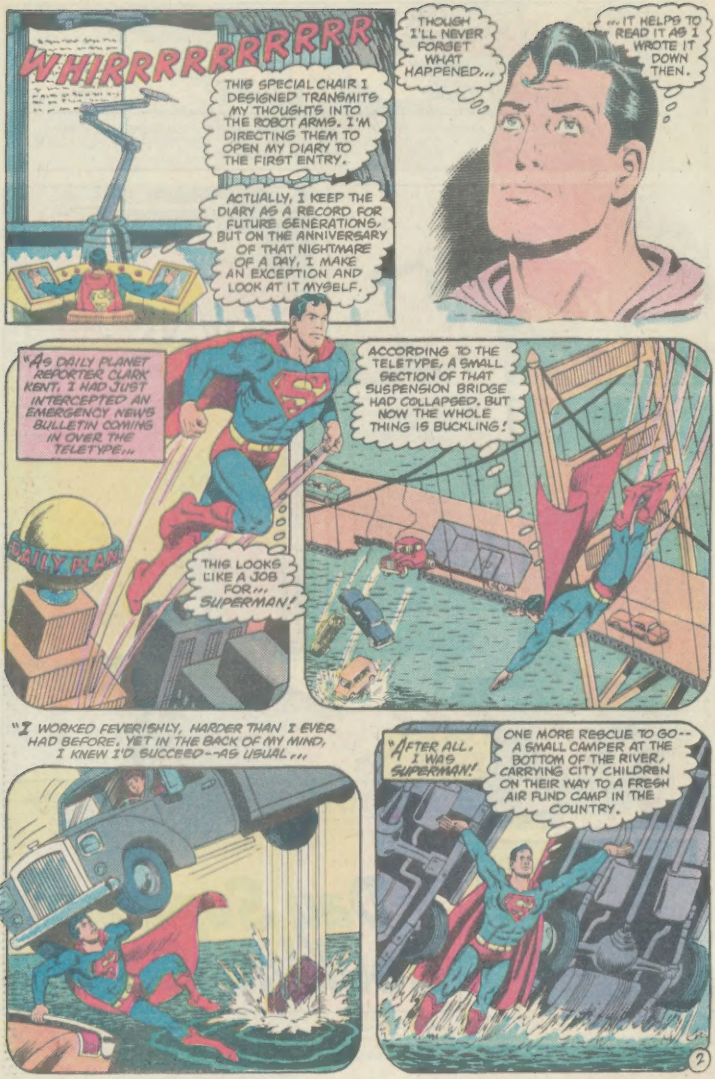
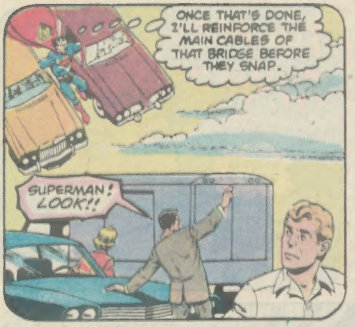
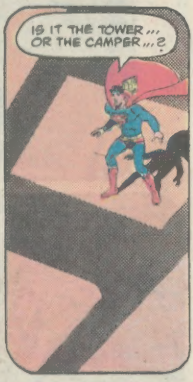

WHIRRRRRRRRRR
THIS SPECIAL CHAIR I DESIGNED TRANSMITS MY THOUGHTS INTO THE ROBOT ARMS. I'M DIRECTING THEM TO OPEN MY DIARY TO THE FIRST ENTRY.
ACTUALLY, I KEEP THE DIARY AS A RECORD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. BUT ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THAT NIGHTMARE OF A DAY, I MAKE AN EXCEPTION AND LOOK AT IT MYSELF.
THOUGH I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED...
...IT HELPS TO READ IT AS I WROTE IT DOWN THEN.
"AS DAILY PLANET REPORTER CLARK KENT, I HAD JUST INTERCEPTED AN EMERGENCY NEWS BULLETIN COMING IN OVER THE TELETYPE..."
DAILY PLAN
THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR... SUPERMAN!
ACCORDING TO THE TELETYPE, A SMALL SECTION OF THAT SUSPENSION BRIDGE HAD COLLAPSED. BUT NOW THE WHOLE THING IS BUCKLING!
"I WORKED FEVERISHLY, HARDER THAN I EVER HAD BEFORE. YET IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, I KNEW I'D SUCCEED--AS USUAL..."
"AFTER ALL, I WAS SUPERMAN!"
ONE MORE RESCUE TO GO-- A SMALL CAMPER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER, CARRYING CITY CHILDREN ON THEIR WAY TO A FRESH AIR FUND CAMP IN THE COUNTRY.

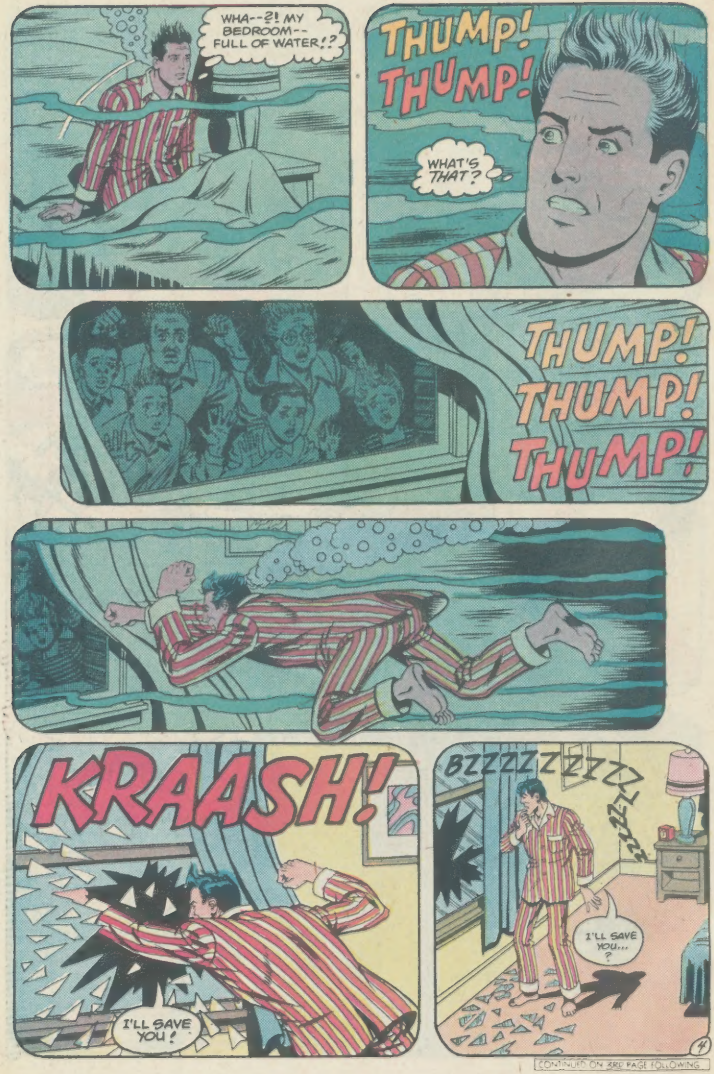

ONCE THAT'S DONE, I'LL REINFORCE THE MAIN CABLES OF THAT BRIDGE BEFORE THEY SNAP.
SUPERMAN! LOOK!!

GREAT KRYPTON! THAT FALLING TOWER WILL CRUSH AN ENTIRE CITY-BLOCK UNLESS I STOP IT!

"SUDDENLY, THE AWFUL REALIZATION HIT ME..."
I HAVE TO CHOOSE! IF I DON'T SECURE THAT TOWER, HUNDREDS WILL BE KILLED!


IS IT THE TOWER... OR THE CAMPER...?

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR!


WHA--?! MY BEDROOM-- FULL OF WATER!?
THUMP! THUMP!
WHAT'S THAT?
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
KRAASH!
I'LL SAVE YOU!
BZZZZZZZZZ
I'LL SAVE YOU...?
4
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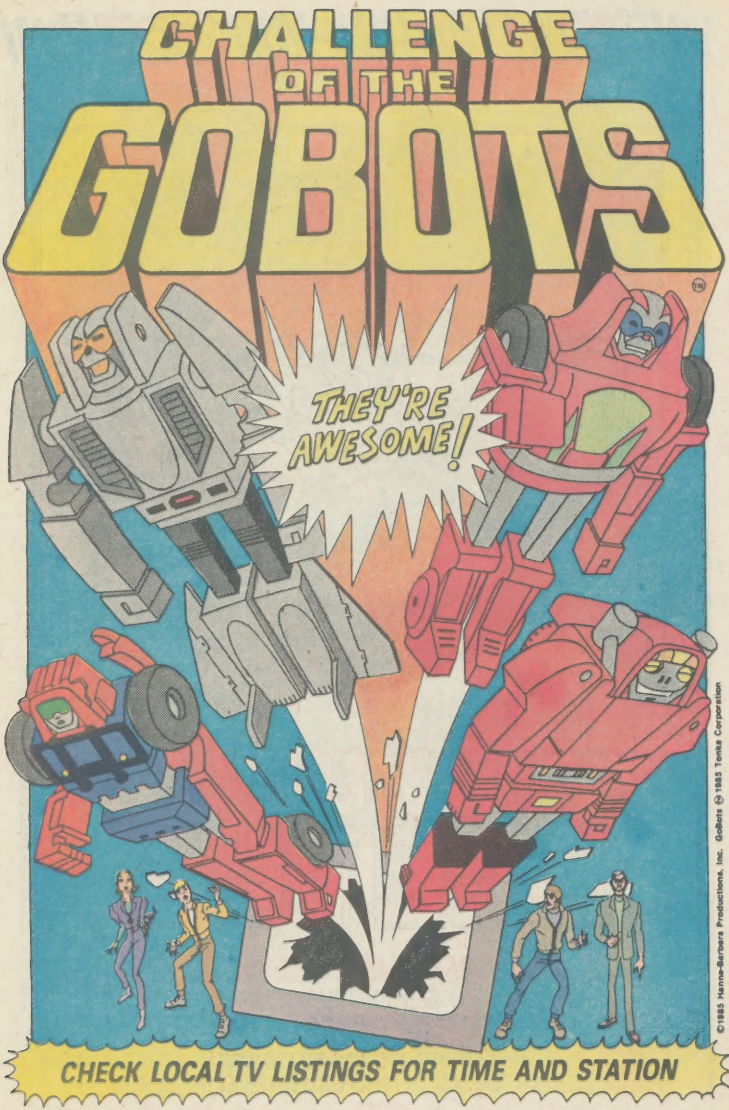
CHALLENGE
OF THE
GOBOTS
THEY'RE AWESOME!
CHECK LOCAL TV LISTINGS FOR TIME AND STATION
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YOU WANTED HIM--YOU GOT HIM!

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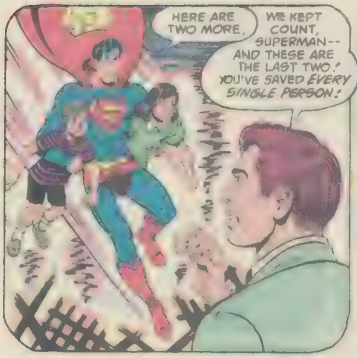
GUARANTEED TO DRIVE YOU BUGGY!

SENSATIONAL STORIES BY LEN WEIN!
OUTRAGEOUS ART BY PARIS CULLINS & BRUCE PATTERSON!

DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN SACRIFICES SIX TO SAVE HUNDREDS
BY CLARK KENT
HE DID HIS BEST. WASN'T HIS FAULT!
"I COULDN'T REMEMBER PULLING THEM OUT OF THE WATER. STILL DON'T.
"WHEN I INTERVIEWED EYEWITNESSES AS CLARK, THEY SAID THEY'D SEEN ME TRY TO RESUSCITATE THEM. THEY SAID I WAS CRYING...
YEAH, WELL, I WOULDN'T WANNA BE HIM, HAVING TO MAKE THAT KINDA DECISION!
BE HIM--? HECK, I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE THOSE PEOPLE WHO DROWNED TO DEATH!
GOSH -- WHAT A WAY TO GO! CAN YOU IMAGINE--ALL YOUR AIR CUT OFF! GULPING IN THAT FIRST LUNGFUL OF WATER!
THUMP! THUMP!
I READ SOMEWHERE THAT YOU PASS OUT THE MINUTE THE--
THUMP! THUMP!
MY COUSIN EDDIE DROWNED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES AND HE--
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
KRASH!
NO! I WON'T LET YOU DOWN AGAIN! YOU'RE FREE NOW! FREE!!
I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND!
5

"SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM THAT BUS WITHOUT BEING ARRESTED. I MADE MY WAY TO THE PLANET AND HOLED MYSELF UP IN MY OFFICE...
LET'S GO, CLARK! THE METROPOLIS AMUSEMENT PARK IS ON FIRE AND THE CHIEF ASSIGNED US TO COVER IT.
THE YOUTH CENTER IS HOLDING ITS SPECIAL OUTING THERE TODAY! THERE ARE 183 HANDICAPPED KIDS TRAPPED IN THE FLAMES!
YOU GO ON AHEAD, JIMMY. I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU.
NO TIME NOW TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH PERSONAL PROBLEMS. THOSE CHILDREN ARE DEPENDING ON ME!
"AND WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK AND SAW WHAT I FACED...
THE ENTIRE PARK ABLAZE! WHAT IF I CAN'T GET EVERYONE OUT IN TIME? WHAT IF I HAVE TO MAKE THAT AWFUL DECISION AGAIN?
I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AGAIN FOR THE DEATHS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!
TICKETS
AND YET... IF I DON'T TAKE ACTION, EVERYBODY WILL DIE!
6

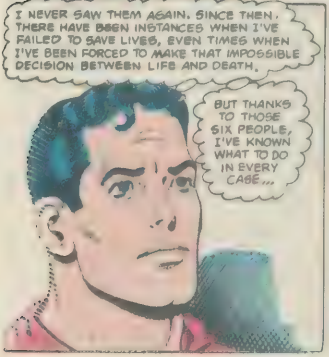
THUMP THUMP THUMP!
YOU AGAIN--?! LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M THE ONE WHO'S TRAPPED AND NEEDS SAVING NOW!
KERSPLAASSH!
GOT TO SMASH OUT--
DON'T WORRY, SUPERMAN--
--WE'LL SAVE YOU--
--AND SHOW YOU HOW TO SAVE EVERYBODY.
"IT WAS AS IF THEY WERE CALLING THE SIGNALS--MOVING ME HERE... THERE... EVERYWHERE--SAVING LIVES...
FUN HOUSE


HERE ARE TWO MORE.
WE KEPT COUNT, SUPERMAN-- AND THESE ARE THE LAST TWO! YOU'VE SAVED EVERY SINGLE PERSON!

...HAVE? YOU'RE SURE? EVERY LAST ONE?
ABSOLUTELY!
YOU'RE OUR HERO! YAY FOR SUPERMAN!

I REALLY CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THIS. I OWE IT ALL TO THESE SIX WONDERFUL--

THEY'RE GONE...?


I NEVER SAW THEM AGAIN. SINCE THEN, THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES WHEN I'VE FAILED TO SAVE LIVES, EVEN TIMES WHEN I'VE BEEN FORCED TO MAKE THAT IMPOSSIBLE DECISION BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
BUT THANKS TO THOSE SIX PEOPLE, I'VE KNOWN WHAT TO DO IN EVERY CASE...

DIARY
WHIRRRRRRRRCLICK
...MY BEST!

YEH! It looks like wild pop sculpture, but this bug is actually a three-function LCD digital wrist watch!

AMAZING! Just press the front bumper and—*whoosh!*—the auto body flips open to reveal a big, bright, Liquid Crystal Display that shows you (1) accurate time, (2) today's date, and (3) digital seconds. Comes complete with a VELCRO watch band that fits all wrists—secure, yet quick to remove. Slip the bug off the band, and it rolls on its own wheels—a miniature toy car.

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- Jet Black
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SON OF AMBUSH BUG
REVEALED AT LAST!
THE NEWEST DC MINI-SERIES DESTINED TO BE A
COLLECTOR'S EDITION
START COLLECTING
THIS IS IT!
"MUST HAVE DOUBLE-BAG ITEM!
FLEMING AND GIFFEN HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!
OKSNER TOO!
FROM THE HIT TV SHOW--A SPECTACULAR!
IS HE MAN OR MONSTER?

AMBUSH BUG IS BACK!

A six-issue mini-series from you-know-who and his friend

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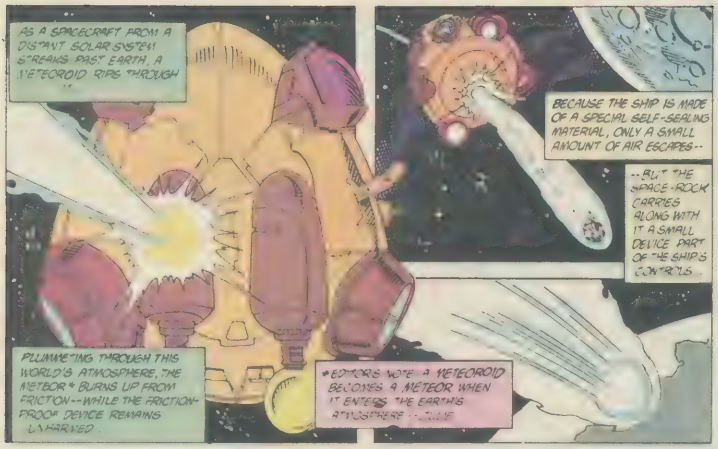
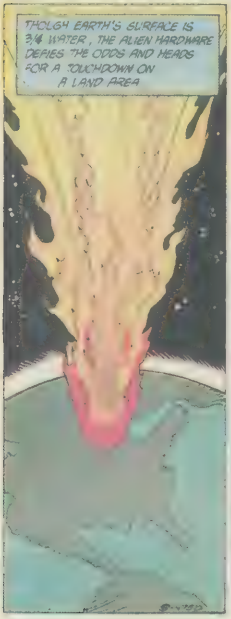

AS A SPACECRAFT FROM A DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM STREAKS PAST EARTH, A METEOROID RIPS THROUGH ..
BECAUSE THE SHIP IS MADE OF A SPECIAL SELF-SEALING MATERIAL, ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF AIR ESCAPES--
--BUT THE SPACE-ROCK CARRIES ALONG WITH IT A SMALL DEVICE PART OF THE SHIP'S CONTROLS ..
PLUMMETING THROUGH THIS WORLD'S ATMOSPHERE, THE METEOR* BURNS UP FROM FRICTION--WHILE THE FRICTION-PROOF DEVICE REMAINS UNHARMED ..
*EDITOR'S NOTE: A METEOROID BECOMES A METEOR WHEN IT ENTERS THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE ..JULIE


THOUGH EARTH'S SURFACE IS 3/4 WATER, THE ALIEN HARDWARE DEFIES THE ODDS AND HEADS FOR A TOUCHDOWN ON A LAND AREA

...CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.
...AND FOUND THERE BY A BOY NAMED CHRISTOPHER ZALL, IT WILL BE A PLAYTHING BUT IN ACTUALITY IT IS--
GOSH, WHAT'S THAT?
THE MOST DANGEROUS TOY ON EARTH!
WRITER E. NELSON BRADLEY
PENCILS, MARTIN KING & PARIS CULLINS
INKER GABBY TRAINOR
LETTERER AGUSTIN MAS
COLORIST GENE D'ANGELO
EDITOR JULIUS SCHWARTZ

I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. MUST'VE FALLEN OUT OF A PLANE, OR SOMETHING.
WHAT'S IT FOR I WONDER? IF I COULD GO UP IN THE SKY AND TRACK DOWN THE "BE" I COULD FIND OUT.
G-GOLLY--I REALLY AM IN THE SKY!
HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN?
BUT EVEN LOWER ON THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THE ALIEN SHIP...
"THERE'S NO WAY TO SURVIVE THE LONG JOURNEY HOME WITHOUT IT! FORTUNATELY, THE IMPULSES THE STREBBL EMITS WILL ENABLE ME TO TRACK IT DOWN.
THE STREBBL WAS TORN AWAY BY THAT METEOROID TOWARD THAT NEARBY PLANET UNLESS I RETRIEVE IT, I AM DOOMED!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THAT PLANET, THOSE IMPULSES COULD CAUSE DISASTROUS EFFECTS!

"GREAT SCOTT! A FREAK HAILSTORM WREAKING HAVOC IN THE JUNGLES OF BORNEO!"
THERE IT IS--A METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENON--A HAILSTORM UNLIKE ANY I'VE EVER SEEN ON EARTH
STILL, THE HAILSTORM IS DOING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE! LET'S SEE IF I CAN STOP IT BY MELTING THE STONES WITH HEAT VISION!
BOOM! KRAK! BRAM

THE MORE I SEE OF THIS, THE MORE PUZZLING IT BECOMES!
GOT A WILD IDEA -- SINCE HEAT DIDN'T STOP THE STONES --
RAH!
SHAZZ!
--LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF I USE THE POWER LEAST LIKELY TO WORK -- SUPER-COLD BREATH!
WOOOSH!
BINGO! THE STORM'S BREAKING UP -- VAPORIZING -- FROM THE COLD!
A CHARGE, AT THAT MOMENT, ANOTHER STARTLING EVENT IS OCCURRING -- LAMONA TO THE RESCUE!
THANKS TO MY INVISIBILITY SHIELD, MY LANDING WILL NOT ALARM THE NATIVES.
HOWEVER, I CANNOT HAVE ANY SUCH CONCEALMENT. MUST MOVE FAST AND RECOVER THE STREBOLT BEFORE --
'EEEE'
THERE IT IS! AN EARTHLINGS FOUND IT AND DISCOVERED HOW TO USE IT!

YOUNG MALE! I MUST COMMUNICATE WITH YOU!
HUH? WHO ARE YOU?
I AM KHALD, OF THE PLANET OTAW.
OKAY... MAYBE YOU ARE AND MAYBE YOU AREN'T. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THAT OBJECT YOU HOLD BELONGS TO ME! GIVE IT BACK TO ME! MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!
YEAH? HOW COME...?
IT IS A VITAL ELEMENT OF MY SPACESHIP. WITHOUT IT, I CANNOT RETURN HOME, NOR SURVIVE LONG IN THIS HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT.
IF YOU'RE AN ALIEN, HOW COME YOU SPEAK ENGLISH SO WELL?
I AM NOT SPEAKING YOUR LANGUAGE. I AM COMMUNICATING TELEPATHICALLY. YOU RECEIVE MY THOUGHTS IN YOUR BRAIN, WHICH TRANSLATES THEM INTO FAMILIAR WORDS.
IT IS INVISIBLE, BUT I WILL MAKE IT APPEAR. SEE?
COULD BE YOU'RE A VENTRILOQUIST TRYING TO TRICK ME! WHERE'S YOUR SPACESHIP ANYWAY?
AW, C'MON! HOLOGRAMS? THEY LOOK REAL!

MANHATTAN ATTEMPTING TO SUBDUE SUPERMAN COMES UNDER ANOTHER UNUSUAL ATTACK!
THE MISSISSIPPI... ABLAZE!? THAT'S A GIGANTIC OIL SPILL OR
NO--NOT A SIGN OF ANY FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCE! THIS IS AS INCREDIBLE AS THAT HAILSTORM!
MY FIRST IMPULSE IS TO BLOW IT OUT--
STEEL SKIN! I'LL SCORCH HIS SUPER-BREATH!
WHOOSH!
I'LL BLOW IT OUT! I'LL BLAST IT WITH MY SUPER-BREATH...
NO--WAIT! SOMEHOW THE FIRE IS AVOIDING MY BREATH...
ACTING AS CONTRARY AS THE "HAILSTORM ILLINI" WAS STOPPED BY COLD, MAYBE FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE--?
RIGHT ON THE BEAM! THE FIRE'S BEING SMOTHERED!
AS THE MAN OF STEEL FLIES UPSTREAM, PUTTING OUT THE BLAZE...
LOOKS LIKE THE FIRE IS COMING FROM ONE OF THE TANKS FARMED ON THE ILLINOIS RIVER, WHICH FLOWS THROUGH CHICAGO!

ACTUALLY, THE FIRE CAME FROM CHICAGO, WHERE MY SUPER-SENSES ARE DETECTING WEIRD EMANATIONS. LET'S SEE WHAT--
THERE--ON THAT ROOF--AN ALIEN! I'M PICKING UP HIS TELEPATHIC WAVES
NOW THAT YOU HAVE TOUCHED MY SHIP, YOU KNOW IT IS REAL!
NOT SO! YOU COULD BE A SUPER-VILLAIN LIKE LUTHOR-- OR A TRICKSTER LIKE MR. MXYZPTLK!
I'D LISTEN TO HIM, CHRISTOPHER-- THAT GADGET'S ALREADY CAUSED A LOT OF DAMAGE.
OH! NOW YOU'VE GOT A PAL POSING AS SUPERMAN!
BUT I AM SUPERMAN! YOU SAW ME FLY!
"COULD BE DONE WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS-- LIKE IN THE SCI-FI MOVIES!
PLEASE! BELIEVE ME--THE DEVICE YOU HAVE IS VITAL TO ME, BUT DANGEROUS TO YOUR PLANET, YOUNG--
STOP CALLING ME "YOUNG ONE"! I'M CHRISTOPHER BALL!
AOH, BOY! THIS "DOESN'T LIFTING IT FROM I'M THE REAL THING"?
NO--LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE SUPER-POWERS! YOU MIGHT BE AN ESCAPED PHANTOM ZONE VILLAIN OR SOMETHING!

I HATE TO USE MUSCLE AGAINST A YOUNGSTER. BUT THAT DEVICE IS TOO DANGE--
AH--GO WAY FROM ME!
HUUUUFF!
MY STREBOLT COLLECTS POWER FROM THE NEAREST STAR-SUN AND USES IT IN VARIOUS WAYS.
WITHOUT IT, I CANNOT GO THROUGH HYPERSPACE TO MY HOME. EVENTUALLY THIS WORLD'S HEAVIER GRAVITY WILL KILL ME
AH, I SEE--IT WORKED AGAINST ME BECAUSE IT GETS ITS POWER FROM THE SAME SOURCE--EARTH'S YELLOW SUN!
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO CONVINCE YOU I'M SUPERMAN?
WELL, I WROTE THE REAL SUPERMAN A FAN LETTER LAST YEAR WHAT DID IT SAY?
HE DOESN'T REALIZE HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF LETTERS I GET REGULARLY, BUT WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY SUPER-MEMORY, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS!
WHAT TIME OF YEAR DID YOU WRITE IT?
APRIL!
NOW--TO GO THROUGH MY APRIL MAIL MENTALLY AT SUPER-SPEED AND --AH!
YOU WROTE: "DEAR SUPERMAN: I LIKE ALL THE SUPER-HEROES, LIKE GREEN LANTERN AND BATMAN BUT YOU'RE MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE! COME TO CHICAGO AND VISIT ME SOMETIME!"
HEY--THAT'S IT! YOU REALLY ARE SUPERMAN!
AND SO WITH EVERYTHING STRAIGHTENED OUT AND THE STREBOLT RETURNED TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER
WAIT 'LL I TELL MY FRIENDS ABOUT THIS! ONLY I'LL BET THEY WON'T BELIEVE IT!
TELL THEM TO TUNE IN GBS WORLD NEWS THIS EVENING! I HAVE A FRIEND WHO WILL BROADCAST YOUR WHOLE WONDERFUL STORY!
EDITOR'S NOTE - AS THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER IN THE SUPER POWERS SWEEPSTAKES, CHRISTOPHER BALL WAS ENTITLED TO APPEAR IN A STORY WITH SUPERMAN!
THE END

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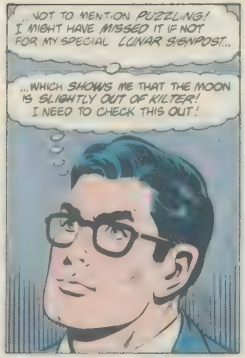
SUPERMAN
"I'M A NOT" OVER, STEVEN
TOO BAD, MR KENT. IT WAS SPECTACULAR. I MEAN I'VE NEVER SEEN A LUNAR ECLIPSE BEFORE!
GLAD YOU GOT TO SEE THIS ONE THEN!
"THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER TOTAL ONE VISIBLE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD FOR SOME TIME."
I KNOW, THAT'S WHY MY FOLKS LET ME STAY UP FOR IT
IT'S AMAZING HOW SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS THE EARTH'S SHADOW PASSING ACROSS THE FACE OF THE MOON CAN PRODUCE SUCH AWESOME RESULTS!
YOU SAID IT, PAL! I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING!
WHETHER SO?!
I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG WITH THE MOON!


NOT TO MENTION PUZZLING! I MIGHT HAVE MISSED IT IF NOT FOR MY SPECIAL LUNAR SIGNPOST..
..WHICH SHOWS ME THAT THE MOON IS SLIGHTLY OUT OF KILTER! I NEED TO CHECK THIS OUT!

AND SO A SHORT TIME LATER
G'NIGHT MR KENT. THANKS FOR YAWN! WATCHING THE ECLIPSE WITH ME.
A PLEASURE STEVEN. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

BETWEEN THEN AND NOW HE WILL TRAVEL A LONG WAY... BEGINNING WITH A SHORT QUARTER-OF-A-MILLION-MILE HOP TO EARTH'S NEAREST NEIGHBOR TO SOLVE...
"THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MOON!"

PAUL KUPPERBERG
WRITER

KURT SCHAFFENBERGER
PENCILLER

DAVE HUNT
INKER

AGUSTIN MAS
LETTERER

GENE DANGELO
COLORIST

JULIUS SCHWARTZ
EDITOR

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THE MOON'S TILTED A FRACTION OF A DEGREE ON ITS AXIS! IT WON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON EARTH...
...BUT IT'S STILL UNUSUAL ENOUGH THAT I WANT TO KNOW WHY.
IT'S SOMETHING HARDLY ANY ONE ELSE WOULD SPOT. MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE LADY IN THE MOON...
...ACTUALLY, AN OPTICAL ILLUSION FORMED BY THE SHADOWS OF THE MOUNTAINS AND CRATERS ON THE SURFACE.
IT'S ALSO DOUBTFUL ANYONE ELSE HAS THE EYES TO NOTICE THAT THE TILT OF HER NOSE IS OFF BY THAT FRACTION OF A DEGREE!
I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING THAT COULD HAVE SHIFTED THE MOON WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION ON EARTH..
IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN A METEOR-STRIKE OR MASSIVE SEISMIC ACTIVITY...
...E THER OF WHICH WOULD HAVE REGISTERED ON THE EQUIPMENT LEFT HERE BY THE APOLLO MISSIONS.
WELL, EVERYTHING'S FINE TOPSIDE. LET'S SEE HOW THINGS FARE BELOW...
HUH...? I MUST BE SEEING THINGS!
3

THE MOON IS HOLLOW!
BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN THAT WAY BEFORE! I KNOW--I'VE BEEN INSIDE TO EXPLORE ITS SOLID INTERIOR
OUTWARDLY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE MOON! INWARDLY IT'S A... COUNTERFEIT!
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE SWITCHED MOONS... WITHOUT ANYONE ON EARTH BEING AWARE OF IT?
THIS DUPLICATE HASN'T THE MASS OF THE REAL MOON, YET THERE'S BEEN NO ADVERSE REACTION TO EARTH BECAUSE OF IT.
SOMEHOW THAT MACHINERY AT THE CORE MUST ARTIFICIALLY DUPLICATE THE MOON'S GRAVITATIONAL EFFECT...
...AND MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO OF EARTH'S ORBIT AND TIDAL EFFECTS!
PRESUMABLY, SOME SORT OF SIMULTANEOUS MATTER TRANSPORTER WAS USED TO PULL OFF THE SWITCH, WHICH, CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THE MOON, IS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE--
--AS IS THE DUPLICATION OF THE MOON DOWN TO THE MINUTEST DETAIL!
THERE AREN'T MANY CIVILIZATIONS CAPABLE OF EITHER FEAT
..SO LET'S SEE IF SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIALS USED TO CONSTRUCT THIS WILL POINT A FINGER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ONE WHO DID IT!
HMMM
4

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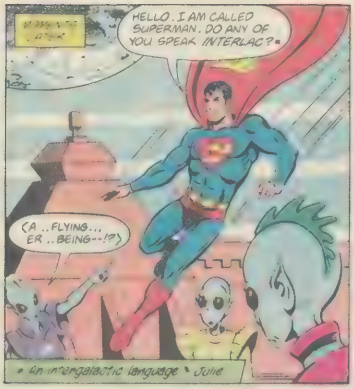
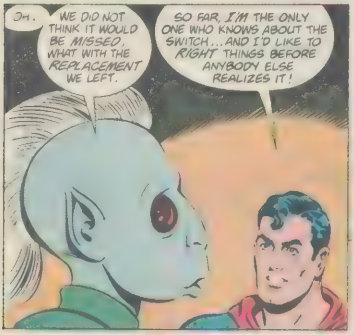
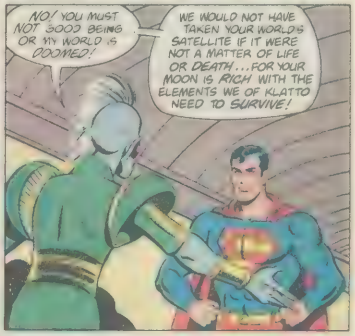
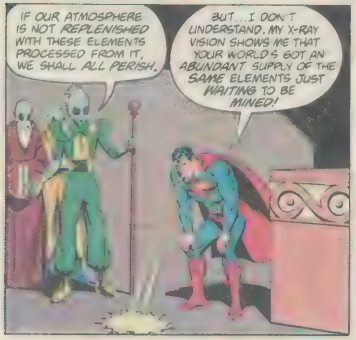
INTERESTING... THE ALLOY USED TO BUILD IT SHOWS A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF A RARE RADIATION FOUND NEAR THE GALACTIC CORE.
AND SINCE A TELEPORTATION DEVICE WAS USED, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND ANY RESIDUAL TRACES OF ITS ENERGY...
...WHICH MUST LIE IN THE WAKE OF THE MOON'S ORBIT, SINCE THAT'S WHERE IT WOULD HAVE HAD TO TRANSPORT THE SATELLITE TO AVOID NOTICE.
AHH, THERE IT IS. DEAD AHEAD--
--JUST WAITING FOR ME TO MATCH ITS VIBRATORY SPEED AND REOPEN THIS END OF ITS "TUNNEL"...
...AND CARRY ME ACROSS THE UNIVERSE IN MINUTES TO COME OUT THE OTHER END... NEAR, AS I FIGURE, THE CORE.
THIS IS WHERE THE MOON WAS TAKEN -- NO DOUBT ABOUT IT -- AND IT SHOULDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO FIND SOMETHING THAT SIZE..
NOT LONG AT ALL!
WHAT AN AMAZING FEAT OF ASTRO-ENGINEERING... HOLDING THE MOON IN STASIS SO ITS GRAVITATIONAL FORCE DOESN'T DISRUPT THE PLANET! BUT WHY WAS IT TAKEN IN THE FIRST PLACE...?

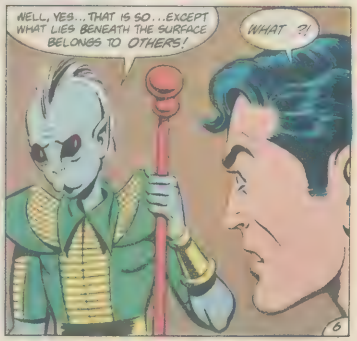

HELLO. I AM CALLED SUPERMAN. DO ANY OF YOU SPEAK INTERLAC?*
(A..FLYING... ER..BEING--!?)
* An intergalactic language - Julie

I SPEAK INTERLAC. I AM GNRELEL, LEADER OF THE PEOPLE OF KLATTO. WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS
ACTUALLY, I'VE COME ABOUT SOME MISSING PROPERTY... NAMELY MY PLANET'S MOON.


OH.
WE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE MISSED, WHAT WITH THE REPLACEMENT WE LEFT.
SO FAR, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE SWITCH.. AND I'D LIKE TO RIGHT THINGS BEFORE ANYBODY ELSE REALIZES IT!


NO! YOU MUST NOT DOOM BEING OR MY WORLD IS DOOMED!
WE WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN YOUR WORLD'S SATELLITE IF IT WERE NOT A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH... FOR YOUR MOON IS RICH WITH THE ELEMENTS WE OF KLATTO NEED TO SURVIVE!


IF OUR ATMOSPHERE IS NOT REPLENISHED WITH THESE ELEMENTS PROCESSED FROM IT, WE SHALL ALL PERISH.
BUT.. I DON'T UNDERSTAND. MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS ME THAT YOUR WORLD'S GOT AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF THE SAME ELEMENTS JUST WAITING TO BE MINED!


WELL, YES... THAT IS SO... EXCEPT WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE BELONGS TO OTHERS!
WHAT ?!
6

YES WE ARE A GREAT BELEAGUERED WORLD FOR ANOTHER RACE WITH WHOM WE ARE AT ODDS LIKES AT OUR WORLDS CORE!
SOON THEY SHALL ATTACK US FROM BELOW--FOR EVEN AS WE HAVE RUN OUT OF ELEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THEM--
--THEY ARE IN NEED OF ELEMENTS AT OUR DISPOSAL. WE SURFACE DWELLERS ARE NOT WARLIKE...BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE! THEY REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE!
THE PROCESSING OF YOUR MOON WILL ALSO CREATE A DEVASTATING WEAPON WHICH WILL DRIVE THE UNDERGROUNDERS FOREVER INTO THEIR HOLES!
DON'T BE SO EAGER TO DESTROY ANOTHER PLANET'S MOON, GNRELL!
AT EXACT THAT TIME YOU'D BE HARD AT DEMOLISHING THE SITUATION!
WHAT A MAD UNIVERSE WE LIVE IN! HERE ARE TWO RACES LIVING SIDE-BY-SIDE NEEDING ONE ANOTHER TO EXIST--
AND THEY'D RATHER RISK DESTRUCTION THAN TRY COOPERATION! WELL, LET'S SEE IF I CAN TALK SOME SENSE INTO THEM!
I MAY HAVE MY CHANCE SOONER THAN EXPECTED! LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY UP TO GET THEIR WAR STARTED!
BEHOLD! THE SURFACE DWELLERS SEND WARRIORS TO HALT OUR ADVANCE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE BUT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE CLEAR!
NOW EXCUSE ME WHILE I FIND YOUR LEADER!
SWOOSH
WHOOSH

CONSIDERING EVERYBODY ELSE HAS GOT TO CLIMB...
AND THIS ONE'S BEING CARRIED. I'LL BET HE'S THE LEADER...
...AND JUST THE ONE I WANT TO SEE!
DON'T WORRY, FRIEND. NOBODY'S GOING TO HURT YOU...
VR-EEET!
VR-EEET!
"...BUT IT'S HIGH TIME YOU ALL SAT DOWN AND DISCUSSED TALKINGS!"
YOU ARE A WONDER, SUPERMAN. NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO GET THE UNDERGROUNDERS TO EVEN CONSIDER DIPLOMACY TO SOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES...
...BUT THANKS TO YOU, WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY TO AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT. HOW MAY WE EVER THANK YOU?
RETURNING MY WORLD'S MOON TO ITS PROPER PLACE WOULD BE THANKS ENOUGH, GNRELEL.
AHHH... ABOUT THAT, SUPERMAN...
"...I AM AFRAID THAT WHEN WE TELEPORTED IT HERE, WE MADE NO PROVISIONS FOR RETURNING IT. WE HAVE NO WAY TO UNDO WHAT WE HAVE DONE..!"
THIS IS GOING TO BE TRICKY! I'VE GOT TO RETURN THE MOON TO IT'S EXACT POSITION OVER EARTH--
--IN THE EXACT SPLIT SECOND THAT THE ARTIFICIAL ONE IS REMOVED... ALL THROUGH THESE SPACE-WARPS I'VE OPENED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE!
THERE-- THE FAKE SATELLITE IS MOVING RIGHT FOR THE WARP ON THIS END, EVEN AS THE REAL ONE'S GOING TO ENTER THE ONE OVER KLATTO...
"...NOW! MY TIMING WAS PERFECT... THERE WAS NO OVERLAP OF THE TWO MOONS OVER EARTH AT ANY TIME, THEREBY AVOIDING ANY DISASTROUS GRAVITATIONAL EFFECTS!
"THE PEOPLE OF KLATTO CAN HAVE BACK THEIR DUPLICATE! FOR MY MONEY, EARTH WILL GO ALONG WITH THE GENUINE ARTICLE!"
THE END

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Dear Editor,

ACTION COMICS #576 was a bit topsy-turvy. What do I mean? Well, the cover seemed to be selling the virtues of the first story, "Earth's Sister Planet," and it was in fact a good story. But then comes the second one, "The Monumental Menace of Metropolis!" Fantastic! This should have been the cover story!

This is not to say that William Woolfolk and Kurt Schaffenberger didn't create a good story. They did; I enjoyed it. But Mark Waid and Paris Cullins just blew my socks off. Their story was excellent, with a good touch of mystery, yet not too confusing. I liked seeing Jimmy Olsen in there helping the Man of Steel. It's good to see some of the *Superman Family* in action, showing that they are more than just hangers-on, providing the Man of Steel with a hand out of a tight spot.

The art was absolutely perfect. Some of the scenes of *Superman* in action almost jumped right off the page, they were so crisp and clean, well-defined and shaped. How can I give enough praise?

Maybe this story should be engraved on brass plates and sent into space as an eternal record of our culture. Too much praise? Well, let's just say I'd like to see more like it and leave it at that.

KEVIN FLETCHER
328 Johnston Dr.
Burlington, Ont. L7N 1V6

Shoot the story off into orbit, Kevin? That would really give us something to tell people to "Look, up in the sky!" at!—BR

*****

Dear Julius and Bob and Laurie,

I liked the cover of *ACTION* #576, but that was all I liked about the issue. (Except for the letter column, but I always enjoy the letter columns!) Neither story did very much for me; I can't even say that I found them mildly entertaining.

"Earth's Sister Planet" was weak from beginning to end. I just can't accept the fact that *Superman* wouldn't know of another planet existing beyond Pluto. The Man of Steel has explored every inch of our solar system over the years and I'm certain he would have come across this planet before now. But even if he hadn't, the dinosaurs knew Interlac, meaning they'd been in contact with other extraterrestrial civilizations. Somewhere along the way, *Superman* should have learned of these dinosaurs from another civilization. And he would have investigated.

Not that this would have saved the story. The plot was simplistic and the dialogue bordered on childish. What really took the cake was when *Superman* went crashing through the shell of Klystro's craft from deep space. Everybody who has even the slightest understanding of science knows that such an act would have catastrophic results.

"The Monumental Menace of Metropolis" was better, but that's not saying much. The only thing in it that interested me was the super-hero named Vaalor. Unfortunately, not much was done with his character and, like other heroes before him, I'm sure his first appearance is also his last.

JONATHAN GILBERT
271 Southcrest Dr.
London, Ont. N6J 1N3

We've got to disagree with two points, Jonathan. Granted Superman has explored much of our solar system, but that doesn't mean he has found everything in it yet. Much of what you would term "exploring" was actually just the Man of Steel traveling to some planet outside our system. He wasn't sightseeing and missed the planet. Also, the dinosaurs could have been monitoring other worlds and learned Interlac; it doesn't mean they ever made contact.—BR

*****

Dear Bob and Julie,

I have been extremely satisfied with *ACTION COMICS* lately. With issues like #575 and 576, it satisfies me all the more! Your magazine is overflowing with interesting plots, super art, powerful colors, great editing, and even good lettering. What more does it need? I can think of only one thing—more of Lois Lane! I enjoy seeing Jimmy Olsen, but let's see Lois in more than a panel or two.

BILL CLIMER
3330 Richwood-LaRue Rd.
La Rue, OH 43332

Look for Lois in her own two-part mini-series later this year, Bill. It features our favorite female reporter on her own, investigating missing children. It's written by Mindy Newell and illustrated by Gray Morrow and shows Ms. Lane getting things done without the aid of a certain red-and-blue-clad hero.!—BR

*****

Dear Julie,

As Christians who believe 100% in the Bible and what it says, we question why you present the unproven theory of evolution as though it were a known scientific fact in *ACTION* #576.

Also, we must admit we are growing tired of outer space creatures. We still miss the old plots of the 1950's, where *Supes* battled mere bank robbers and kidnappers. How about having Cary Bates put his creative talent to work on a nice, *simple* new villain?

STEVE & IAN THOMPSON
2706 Alabama
La Crescenta, CA 91214

We presented evolution as an accepted scientific theory, guys, not as a known scientific fact. And we remember those Superman stories of the fifties—seems to us there were a lot of monsters and space-creatures running around these pages back then too.—BR

*****

Dear Sirs:

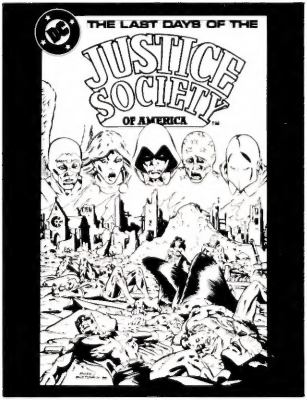
I'm tired of reading about space-invaders, especially lizard ones!

JOHN CAPORALE
Address Not Given

Then you'll probably be happy to hear that DC's adaptation of V *will end with issue #18, John!*

You'll also be happy to hear that there are no lizard invaders in DC COMICS PRESENTS #95, which features the Man of Steel joining forces with Hawkman. And in SUPERMAN #421, our hero finds himself "Trapped in Imp-TV." (Yours truly guessed that that story features Mr. Mxyzptlk, but editor Julie told me I was only half-right. Then he smiled and wouldn't tell me any more. Be there with me to find out the rest of the story!) And we'll look for you all again next issue too. Till then, "Happy Trails!" (Hey, I already used the "Look, up in the sky!" line this issue!)—Bob Rozakis

THE LAST DAYS OF THE JSA



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